


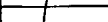
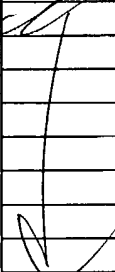
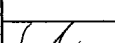


Modified Form PTO/SB/08A

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete If Known	
				Application Number	09/527,931
				Filing Date	March 17, 2000
				First Named Inventor	Mathieu et al.
				Group Art Unit	3729
				Examiner Name	R. Chang
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	P114-US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Relevant Portions
		Number	Kind Code ²			
	1	4947481		Ikedo et al.	8/7/1990	
	2	5148103		Pasiecznik, Jr.	9/15/1992	
	3	5642054		Pasiecznik, Jr.	6/24/1997	
	4	5094536		MacDonald	3/10/1992	
	5	5974662		Eldridge et al.	11/2/1999	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Relevant Portions	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				
	6	JP	4294559		Koike et al.	10/19/1992		
	7	JP	3065659		Bando	3/20/1991		x
	8	JP	1152271		Nakazima et al.	10/20/1989		x
	9	JP	59149070		Mizumo	10/5/1984		x
	10	JP	2226996		Kitamura	9/10/1990		x
	11	JP	3292406		Sakuma	12/24/1991		x
	12	JP	4207047		Takao	7/29/1992		x
	13	JP	529406		Nakao	2/5/1993		x
	14	JP	650990			2/25/1994		
		15	WO	96/15458		Khandros et al.	5/23/1996	

Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered	4/7/04
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				<i>Complete If Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/527,931
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				Group Art Unit	3729
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Relevant Portions
		Number	Kind Code ²			
	1	5828226		Higgins et al.	10/27/1998	
	2	6040700		Berar	3/21/2000	
	3	6043668		Carney	3/28/2000	
	4	6087840		Mizuta	7/11/2000	
	5	6144212		Mizuta	11/7/2000	
	6	6160412		Martel et al.	12/12/2000	
	7	6166552		O'Connell	12/26/2000	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Relevant Portions	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				
	8	EP	802419		Soejima et al.	10/22/1997		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	6/7/04
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¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on June 13, 2002 in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Patti Crowder
Patti Crowder

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of: Gaetan L. Mathieu et al.

Application No.: 09/527,931

Filing Date: March 17, 2000

For: Methods For Planarizing A Semiconductor
Contactor

Examiner: R. Chang

Group Art Unit: 3919

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231.

Sir,

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s). Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. The Examiner is requested to initial and return the attached Form PTO/SB/08A in accordance with MPEP §609. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

☐ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):

- ☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d))
- OR -
☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage
- OR -
☐ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits
- OR -
☐ (4) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.

06/23/2002 MB3HE 0000033 500265 09527931

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- ☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or (4) the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:
- ☐ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; or
- ☒ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:
- A. a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; and
- B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☒ **Fee Authorization.** Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge the above fee of \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (Order No. P114-US). Although Applicants believe that no additional fee is due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment associated, with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (Order No. P114-US).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 13, 2002

By: 

N. Kenneth Burraston
Reg. No. 39,923

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Livermore, CA 94550
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